

In the Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** An apparatus for filling trays with polymerized growth medium, comprising:

at least one top feed roller positioned above the top surface of a tray, and at least one bottom feed roller positioned below the bottom surface of a tray; wherein said at least one top feed roller and said at least one bottom feed roller ~~a plurality of feed rollers which~~
propel a tray containing at least one tray cavity downstream through a filling region;

a slurry dispenser nozzle which deposits polymerized growth medium in a slurry state on the tray, positioned downstream of the feed rollers; and

a filler roller, positioned downstream of the slurry dispenser nozzle, which distributes the polymerized growth medium into and over the at least one tray cavity.
2. **(original)** The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at least one brush, positioned downstream of the filler roller, which removes excess polymerized growth medium from the tray.
3. **(original)** The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the at least one brush is a rotary brush.
4. **(canceled)**
5. **(currently amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein:

the vertical position of the at least one top feed roller is adjustable; and

the vertical position of the at least one bottom feed roller is adjustable independently of the vertical position of the at least one top feed roller.
6. **(original)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the feed rollers rotate at a feed roller rate;

the filler roller rotates at a filler roller rate; and

the feed roller rate and the filler roller rate are independently adjustable.
7. **(original)** The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at least one brush, positioned downstream of the filler roller, which removes excess polymerized growth medium from the tray, and wherein the plurality of feed rollers further comprises at least one top feed

- roller positioned above the top surface of a tray, and at least one bottom feed roller positioned below the bottom surface of a tray.
8. **(original)** The apparatus of claim 7, wherein:
- the vertical position of the at least one top feed roller is adjustable; and
- the vertical position of the at least one bottom feed roller is adjustable independently of the vertical position of the at least one top feed roller.
9. **(original)** The apparatus of claim 8, wherein:
- the feed rollers rotate at a feed roller rate;
- the filler roller rotates at a filler roller rate; and
- the feed roller rate and the filler roller rate are independently adjustable.
10. **(original)** The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the plurality of feed rollers further comprises at least one top feed roller positioned above the top surface of a tray, and at least one bottom feed roller positioned below the bottom surface of a tray.
11. **(original)** The apparatus of claim 10, wherein:
- the vertical position of the at least one top feed roller is adjustable; and
- the vertical position of the at least one bottom feed roller is adjustable independently of the vertical position of the at least one top feed roller.
12. **(original)** The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising at least one brush, positioned downstream of the filler roller, which removes excess polymerized growth medium from the tray.
13. **(original)** The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the at least one brush is a rotary brush.
14. **(currently amended)** A method of filling a tray with polymerized growth medium comprising the steps of:
- using an apparatus of claim 1, 2, 3, ~~[[4,]]~~ 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, or 13; ~~comprising:~~
- feeding a tray containing at least one tray cavity between at least one top feed roller and at least one bottom feed roller downstream at a tray feed rate through a filling region;

depositing the polymerized growth medium in a slurry state from a slurry dispenser nozzle onto the tray; and

rotating a filler roller at a filler roller rotation rate to distribute the polymerized growth medium into and over the at least one tray cavity.

15. **(original)** The method of claim 14, further comprising removing excess polymerized growth medium with at least one brush.
16. **(original)** The method of claim 15, further comprising granulating the removed excess polymerized growth medium and returning it to a mixing chamber from which polymerized growth medium is fed to the slurry dispenser nozzle.
17. **(original)** The method of claim 14, further comprising controlling the density of the polymerized growth medium in the at least one tray cavity by adjusting the filler roller rotation rate relative to the tray feed rate.
18. **(original)** The method of claim 17, further comprising removing excess polymerized growth medium with at least one brush.
19. **(original)** The method of claim 18, further comprising granulating the removed excess polymerized growth medium and returning it to a mixing chamber from which polymerized growth medium is fed to the slurry dispenser nozzle.
20. **(original)** The method of claim 18, wherein the tray feed rate is selected so that approximately six minutes elapses between the step of depositing the polymerized growth medium and the step of removing excess polymerized growth medium.
21. **(original)** The method of claim 19, wherein the tray feed rate is selected so that approximately six minutes elapses between the step of depositing the polymerized growth medium and the step of removing excess polymerized growth medium.
22. **(original)** The method of claim 18, wherein the tray feed rate is selected so that the polymerized growth medium is substantially cured at the time of the step of removing excess polymerized growth medium.

23. **(original)** The method of claim 19, wherein the tray feed rate is selected so that the polymerized growth medium is substantially cured at the time of the step of removing excess polymerized growth medium.